

Empire Films Convention in Session Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Three Days

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AL LICHTMAN PRESIDENT



THE shareholders showed excellent vision and commonsense, as well as good business judgment in the election of Mr. Lichtman as president of the United Artists.

The Digest has since its infancy supported the idea of Showmen in Show Business because Showmen know what it is all about. United Artists has long since won its spurs as a Major Enterprise in Motion Pictures. It has produced some of the best pictures on the market; and had associated with its company some of our world-famous stars and producers. It has kept up the standard of quality in Motion Pictures and the standard of price values, both institutions which are necessary to Motion Pictures if the public is to be educated to an appreciable box-office as well as aesthetic enjoyment of the Art of Motion Pictures.

ANOTHER SHOWMAN PASSES

ONE of the most unpleasant duties we have editorially is to report the passing of ye good old timers. When an old showman active in our Industry passes on, a bit of motion picture history and colour passes with it. Exhibitors in Canada who have attended many M.P.T.O. conventions in the U. S. will remember Lee A. Ochs, veteran exhibitor and national film leader. Mr. Ochs was stricken with an attack of appendicitis while attending the Film Daily's Golf Tournament, and following an emergency operation, his heart weakened and he passed away at the York Hospital, Friday, June 21st. He was 55 years old and is survived by his widow, Mrs. Nana Ochs, his mother, Mrs. Carrie Ochs, a son and daughter. Interment was at the Mt. Hope Cemetery, Westchester.

In 1905 Mr. Ochs opened the first Nickleodeum in Cincinnati, the city of his birth. He built up a theatre circuit until the number acquired totaled ten. He was also interested in the production of films being one of the pioneer pro-

ducers at Fort Lee. He fought exhibitor-combines strenuously for many years. He was president of the M. P. Exhibitors' League of New York City and was also president of the National Exhibitors' League of America.

NATHANSON LINKED WITH BRITISH LION

LORD BEAVERBROOK and N. L. Nathanson are said to be behind the deal to reorganize British Lion Film Corp. of which company Mr. S. W. Smith is the president.

The plans are to produce twenty feature pictures a year and to distribute these throughout the world, in addition to an American program. Mr. S. W. Smith recently arrived in New York on the Normandie to make a deal with Republic Pictures, according to reports.

Both N. L. Nathanson and Lord Beaverbrook have had their interests directed in the same channel on other film ventures. Lord Beaverbrook's interests in Motion Pictures in Canada dates back as far as 1919 when he made a statement to the Allen Interests that he had five million dollars available for Motion Picture Theatre Enterprise in Canada. Those were the good old days, and history is repeating itself.

S. W. Smith is president of the Anglo-Canadian Distributing Company, headquarters London, England, an organization which the Trade recognizes as controlled by Mr. N. L. Nathanson. At the time of the Nathanson resignation from Famous Players Canadian he presented his directors with an offer of purchase of the Canadian Company from British-Gaumont. Nathanson has always had a British Bee and you can wager on it that it will do more than buzz.



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RAY LEWIS

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ONE of the most attractive inserts I have seen is the one for which Howard Deitz as publicity and advertising director of M-G-M is responsible, namely, the insert presented in white, black and silver. The black and silver is a most artistic combination, and incidentally is the appropriate tone value for a year conspicuous for the celebration of His Majesty's, King George V's Silver Jubilee as King and Emperor of the British Empire.

Joan Crawford every once in a while gives the box-office a jolt just to remind the Industry of Motion Pictures why she is such a favorite with Leo, the Lion. This time it is in "No More Ladies" in which she is co-starred with Robert Montgomery. In the starry-material support are Charles Ruggles, Franchot Tone, Edna May Oliver, and the director is E. H. Griffith.

"No More Ladies" had its engagement extended in Harrisburg, Wilmington, Rochester, Boston, New Orleans, Louisville, St. Louis, Kansas City, Dayton, Toledo, Houston, Reading, Cleveland, Columbus, etc., etc.

THE New York Times had an editorial recently in which it determined to discover what was meant by "chiselling". Might we inform the Times that "chiselling" is an old Greek custom, not necessarily utilized in the pursuit of the Art of Sculpture through which gods and goddesses took on form, but also utilized in "chiselling" price-cuts for slaves.

Further back in history the Phoenicians chiselled out a language. Today "chiselling" is associated with close trading, not generally honest on either side, not always dishonest, for price-cutters who get goods below the price they should pay are oftentimes called "chisellers" by those who are forced victims of such price-cutting. Another kind of "chiseller" is the go-between, who creates nothing and gives nothing, he is the one who smells out a deal and noses his way into it. In Industry we have that "chiseller supreme" who makes a deal and then stays awake all night making out bills for anything he can think of in order to "chisel" you out of your share of the profits.

DURING the RKO convention at the Drake Hotel, Chicago, the foreign representatives and executives of RKO gave a most interesting picture of the foreign film market in respect to film distribution, production and exhibition.

Mr. E. D. Leishman, chairman of Radio Pictures, Ltd. and managing director of Radio Pictures International stated that a questionnaire had been forwarded to English exhibitors in order to ascertain the type of

pictures exhibitors found most appealing to their patrons. The result brought this information, fifty percent action, twenty-five percent dialogue, and twenty-five percent music; a combination of interest which makes the ideal picture for British and Continental audiences.

Mr. Hanbury, another British representative of RKO, stated that England had gone on a theatre spree, "Excess and unused funds in the treasuries of insurance companies and building societies are the principal sources of new picture financing today". There is a great deal of comment editorially and oratorically regarding overbuilding.

THE Halifax Mail in referring to The Silver Jubilee Issue of The Canadian Moving Picture Digest, in honour of Their Majesties (King George V. and Queen Mary, states, "Canadian Moving Picture Digest's magnificent special issue, in connection with the King's Jubilee, splendidly illustrated with copies of paintings and pictures of leading picture producers, is an exquisite production of typographical art. It also contains an excellent photo of Ray Lewis, Editor and Managing Director, who always writes interestingly about the films and its people. The Canadian Moving Picture Digest is the one British Motion Picture Trade Paper on the American Continent".

A letter from Walter F. Davis, manager of the Capitol, Regina, Sask. from which I quote inspires me to say to my readers, "spare my blushes". Mr. Davis writes, "Just to let you know how I have created an interest among the Regina's in one of Canada's most brilliant women writers; on a table in the foyer we have a card 4 by 6 supported by a neat block of wood with the following copy, 'printed for you'. As soon as we peruse our Canadian Digest we put it on this table; and you would be gladdened if you knew how many weekly readers we have already, and the bright little comments they make about: 'My tale is told'".

The prairie provinces of the Dominion have plenty of space; and the people are big like the spirit of the prairies. Thanks for your letter Walter Davis telling me all about it, and for the idea of presentation. Write again Walter, I love to hear from our real showmen and the 'welcome' sign is particularly in evidence to ye olde time crowd.

LETTER from Bombay, India, Mr. Ram L. Gogtay, reaches us a little late, but also finds a most welcome reception. Mr. Gogtay is head of the Motion Picture Society of India, incorporated under the Indian Companies Act of 1913,

(Continued on page 6)

Canadian Performing Rights Society Hearing Re-opens Toronto—Canadian Authors "Get Air" in Distribution of Royalties



Show Business



Norma Shearer for "Romeo and Juliet"

Norma Shearer is to appear in Shakespeare's immortal "Romeo and Juliet" for the talking screen.

In the footsteps of the greatest tragediennes the world has known, crowning her own brilliant record of achievements in romantic drama, Miss Shearer is scheduled to be starred by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in one of the greatest love stories of all time.

Irving G. Thalberg announced yesterday that he had signed John Mansefield, eminent English writer, to come from England to prepare the screen play.

A world-wide search is being launched to find "Romeo".

Zasu Pitts—Hugh O'Connell Co-Starred

The first of the starring pictures of Zasu Pitts and Hugh O'Connell will be entitled "She Gets Her Man". It is a take-off on the government detective stories, and was put in production on Monday at Universal City under the direction of William Nigh. Helen Twelvetrees, Lucian Littlefield, Guinn Williams, Stanley Price and Florence Dudley are also in the cast.

Igor Gorin, young European baritone who was recently given a screen test by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, has been signed to a long-term contract by that company and will leave in the near future for the coast studios.

Four Pictures Scheduled for July Release by M-G-M

Four new pictures are definitely announced for release during July by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. They include "Escapade", a new William Powell starring film; "The Hands of Orlac", in which Peter Lorre, star of "M" and "The Man Who Knew Too Much", makes his American debut; "Manhattan Madness", with Maureen O'Sullivan and Joel McCrea in the leading roles; and "The Murder Man", Spencer Tracy's first picture under his new long-term contract with M-G-M.

RKO Filming "Jalna"

Ian Hunter, stalwart English actor who was brought to Hollywood by Warner Bros. to play the important role of Theseus in Max Reinhardt's film, "A Midsummer Night's Dream", has been loaned to R.K.O. for the masculine lead in "Jalna", the filmization of the popular Canadian novel by Mazo de la Roche.

Goldwyn Signs Frank Craven

Frank Craven, noted playwright-author, has been signed by Samuel Goldwyn for one of the leading roles in "Barbary Coast" for which Miriam Hopkins, Edward G. Robinson and Joel McCrea have been announced. Craven will play the part of Colonel Cobb, the newspaper editor who set the standard of courage and truth for other editors during the wild days on the Barbary Coast of San Francisco.

Howard Hawks will direct the production which will be released through United Artists.

Heather Angel Signed by RKO

Heather Angel, popular young leading woman, has been signed to a term contract by RKO Radio Pictures, and makes her debut under the new agreement as Constance Bonacieux in "The Three Musketeers", which has just gone into production under the direction of Rowland V. Lee. Miss Angel was seen this season in RKO's great Irish drama, "The Informant".

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Toronto Theatres

LOEWS—Manager Jules Bernstein — "The Flame Within", a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production, with Ann Harding and Herbert Marshall.

IMPERIAL—Manager Jack Arthur — "Love in Bloom", with George Burns and Gracie Allen; and George Raft in "The Glass Key", both Paramount releases.

TIVOLI—Manager D. Krendel — Two features; "Escape Me Never", with Elizabeth Bergner, United Artists release; and Jack Buchanan in "Brewster's Millions", also released by United Artists.

UPTOWN—Manager Tom Daley — "Drake of England", with Matheson Lang, a B.I.P. picture, released through Empire Films.

SHEA'S—Manager Jerry Shea — Gary Cooper in "The Virginian", a Paramount release with Walter Huston, Richard Arlen and Mary Brian.

Nathan Phillips' Motion before Toronto Council for Protest Against Amusement Tax on Low Price Tickets Accepted

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